

# RESEARCH QUARTERLY

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Demographic overviews of Juvenile and Older Inmates

## About TDOC

The Tennessee Department of Correction is committed to ensuring public safety through the incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted felons. The goal of the Department is to provide educational, vocational and treatment programs that will help them become productive citizens upon their re-entry into society.

Currently, there are more than 19,000 inmates assigned to the State's 15

prisons. The Department operates 12 of those facilities. Three are managed privately by Corrections Corporation of America. Two of the State operated prisons are designated for women.

Tennessee's Department of Correction is recognized nationally for its management of prison operations. It was one of the first Departments in the nation to earn national accreditation from the American Correctional Association,

and it's a tradition that continues. Only a handful of Departments nationwide are fully accredited.

All inmates entering the Tennessee Department of Correction are processed through one of four reception and classification centers located at the Tennessee Prison for Women, Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex, Middle Tennessee Reception Center and West Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Once inmates arrive at the center, TDOC staff members collect and evaluate personal information to determine program and security needs. During the classification process, counselors determine a prison assignment and level of supervision needed for the inmate. While incarcerated, inmates are assigned to programs that meet their needs, such as work, education and vocational training.

## Population at a Glance

### Demographic Highlights

For TDOC inmates (including local jails & backup facilities):

- ♦ The most common age group is 40 and over (30.3%)
- ♦ Gender:
  - Male: 23,980 (92%)
  - Female: 1,962 (8%)
- ♦ Race:
  - Caucasian: 12,859 (50%)
  - African American: 12,705 (49%)
  - Other: 378 (1%)

#### ♦ Most Common Primary Offenses:

Murder	3,525 (13.6%)
Cocaine	3,200 (12.3%)
Burglary	3,170 (12.2%)

#### ♦ Average Sentence for These Offenses

Murder	15 years, 7 months**
Cocaine (All drugs)	8 years, 7 months
Burglary	7 years, 8 months

\*\* 286 inmates are not included since they have a sentence of life without parole or death.

## MISSION

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Correction is to:

- Ensure public safety through incarceration of convicted felons;
- Enhance inmate life skills through selected rehabilitative programming; and
- Make implementation of cost-effective measures a clear priority.



TENNESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

320 Sixth Avenue North  
4th Floor, Rachel Jackson Building  
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## VISION

The TDOC will be an organization where employees are:

Empowered in the decision making process,

Involved in the improvement of individual knowledge and skills, the workplace and society, and

Committed to providing a safe and human environment and to assisting offenders by providing opportunities for positive behavioral changes.

## VALUES

The TDOC is committed to continuous improvement by working toward a common goal. All employees are encouraged to be flexible, creative, and responsive in meeting the needs of these they manage.

Fair and ethical treatment of convicted felons, respect for fellow employees and the general public, and openness in both internal and external relationships are essential components in effective management of the Tennessee Department of Correction.

## Visit the TDOC Planning & Research's Website:

[www.state.tn.us/correction/planning/planning.html](http://www.state.tn.us/correction/planning/planning.html)

This quarterly research report was coordinated and published by:

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Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy on nondiscrimination, the Department of Correction does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies or in the admission of or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services or activities.

Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Department of Correction, EEO/AA Coordination, Personnel Office, 3rd Floor Rachel Jackson Building, 320 Sixth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243-0465, Telephone (615) 741-1000 ext. 1508 or TDD (for person with hearing impairment) (615) 532-4423.

ADA inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Department of Correction, Personnel Office, 3rd Floor Rachel Jackson Building, 320 Sixth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37243-0465, Telephone (615) 741-1000 ext. 1508 or TDD (for persons with hearing impairment) (615) 532-4423.

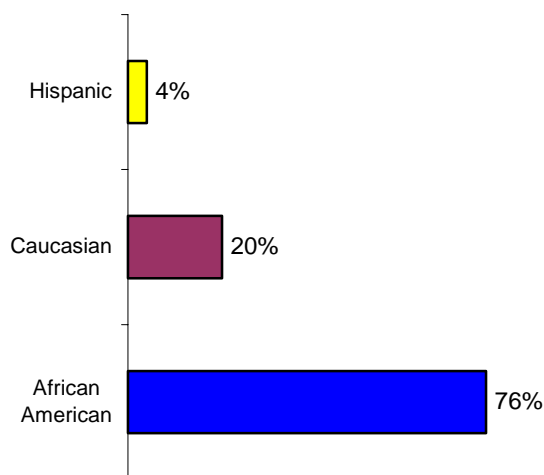
# Juvenile Inmates

## Demographic Highlights

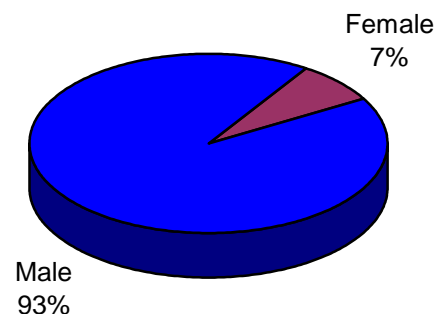
For TDOC inmates (including local jails and backup facilities) under 18 years of age:

- The total number of juveniles under supervision is 25.
- The age range of juveniles is 16 –17.
- The average age of juvenile offenders under TDOC custody is 17.
- The most common offense is aggravated robbery.
- The sentences of juveniles range from 3 to 25 years.
- The average sentence length is 8.4 years.
- The most common counties of conviction are Davidson and Shelby.
- Gender:
  - Male: 93%
  - Female 7%
- Race:
  - African American 76%
  - Caucasian 20%
  - Hispanic 4%

**Race**



**Gender**



A more comprehensive fact sheet on the juvenile population may be obtained via our website or by request to Planning & Research at the contact information on Page 2.

### **In Summation**

The typical juvenile inmate under TDOC supervision is a single **17 year old African American male** who has been convicted of **aggravated robbery** in **Davidson or Shelby County** and is serving approximately **8.4 years** in **Northwest Correctional Complex**.

# Aging Inmates (part one)

The National Institute of Corrections<sup>1</sup> recommends that older inmates be defined as 50 years of age or older incarcerated in Tennessee for a felony offense. This demographic has also been defined as such by other states such as Louisiana<sup>2</sup>, Florida<sup>3</sup> and Ohio<sup>4</sup>. Therefore, the terms "aging" and "older" are defined as anyone 50 years of age and older.

Several statistical analyses were run in order to obtain the demographic tendencies of this felon population. Information was extracted from TOMIS for TDOC felons in state prisons on December 2002.



<sup>1</sup> Morton, J. B. (1992.) An administrative overview of the older inmate. Washington, DC: National Institute of Corrections.

<sup>2</sup> Louisiana. Office of Management & Finance. (2002). Demographic Profiles of the Adult Correctional Population. From <http://www.corrections.state.la.us>.

<sup>3</sup> Florida. Department of Corrections. (2002). 2001-02 Annual Report. From [www.dc.state.fl.us](http://www.dc.state.fl.us).

<sup>4</sup> Ohio. Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. (1997). Older Offenders: The Ohio Initiative. Columbus, OH: State Publishing Office, 1997.

## Demographic Highlights

For TDOC Inmates 50 and over (excluding local jails & backup facility):

- 1,827 or 10% comprise this population.
- The age range of this population is 50 - 83 years.
- The average age is 56 years.
- Sex offenses (such as rape, sexual battery, and sexual assault) are the most common offense.
- The most common length of sentence is 20+ years.
- The most common facility is Deberry Special Needs Facility.
- Gender:
 

Male	95%
Female	5%
- Race:
 

Caucasian	70%
African American	29%
Hispanic	<1%
Other	<1%



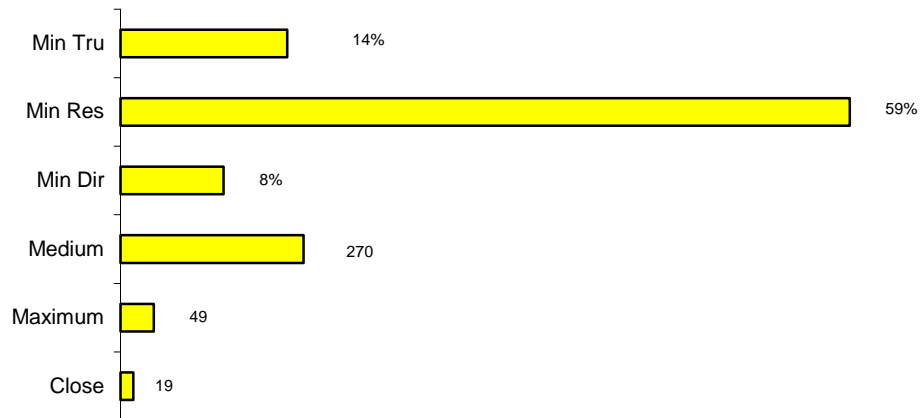
All information current as of December 31, 2002. A more comprehensive research brief on the Aging inmate population may be obtained by request to Planning & Research at the contact information on Page 2.

## In Summation

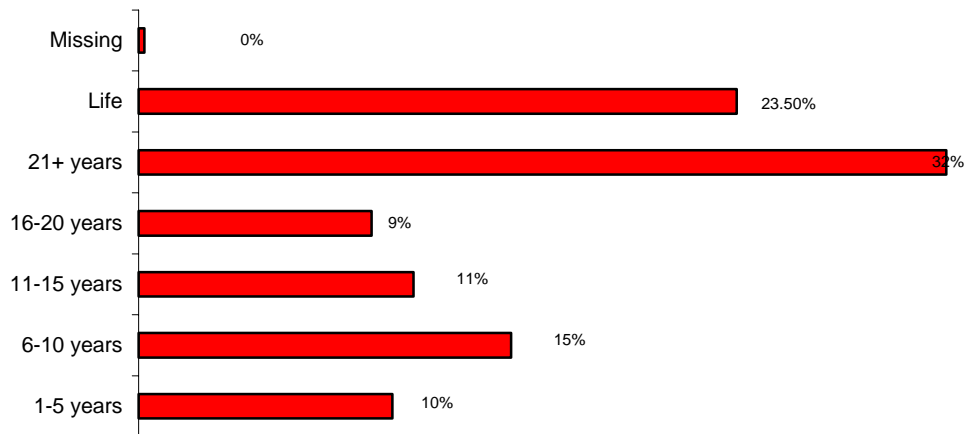
The typical older inmate under TDOC supervision is a **Caucasian male** in his **early to mid 50's** who is serving a **20+ year sentence** for a **sex offense** in **Deberry Special Needs Facility**. He has served **10 or more years** and is in **Minimum Restricted** custody.

# Aging Inmates (part two)

## Custody level



## Length of sentence



## Primary Offense

